



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

1804 SE 16th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

503.231.3853

stsharbelpdx@gmail.com

www.stsharbel.org

December 26, 2021

Sunday After the Birth of Our Lord
Praises to the Mother of God



Next Sunday

Finding in the Temple

Heb 7:11-19 (Melchizedek, a Type of Christ)

Lk 2:41-52 (The Boy Jesus in the Temple)

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for December 12th - 18th

Online.....\$290.00

Collection.....\$462.00

Weekly Total.....\$752.00

YTD Total.....\$98,062.47

YTD Goal.....\$94,146.00

YTD Difference.....\$3,916.47

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, December 26th, 11:00am

+Msgr William Bonczeski

Monday, December 27th

+Leila Khoury

Tuesday, December 28th

Available

Wednesday, December 29th

Available

Thursday, December 30th

Available

Friday, December 31st

Available

Saturday, January 1st

Available

Sunday, January 2nd

Available

***Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 10:00
am before the morning Liturgy.***

***Confession every Sunday 10:35-10:50am
before the morning Liturgy.***

***Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays
at 10:30 am before the Liturgy begins.***

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, December 26th

Available

Sunday, January 2nd

Available

Parish / Community Events

Parish Council

Bruce Ashford
Charlie Ashou
Gus Bekahi
Nick El Hajj
Agopos Ghossein
Adib Karam
+Claude Karam
Anne Marentette
(Secretary)
+Doug Raab
+Thaddeus Rask
Nadia Redmond
Mitch Siekmann

Ex Officio
+Deacon Tony
+Deacon Wadih

+Finance
Committee

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL

December 24, 2021

Kids concert/play 5pm, mass will start
immediately after that

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2021, 11:00am

FEAST OF CIRCUMCISION

January 1, 2022, 11:00am

REJOICE



St. Sharbel's Sunday School

Christmas Eve Pageant

Christmas Pageant will begin at
5pm. Mass will start immediately
following the pageant.

St. Sharbel Sunday School Program (Ages 6-12):

All meetings are held after the Divine Liturgy in the Parish Hall downstairs, unless otherwise noted. All participants will be required to wear a mask and practice physical distance. For more information contact Nadia Redmond at

n.redmond@comcast.net.

UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS:

December 24 - Children's Christmas Eve Pageant

CEDARS OF SAINT SHARBEL

YOUTH

The Cedars of Saint Sharbel is a youth group for ages 13-18 which meets twice a month after the Holy Mysteries on Sunday.

We will be meeting in person, God willing. Meetings will immediately follow mass, in the downstairs basement. All participants will be required to mask and social distance.

2022 Meetings (Subject to Change)

January 9

January 23

February 6

February 20

Meeting dates are posted here and sent out in email. For more information, contact Gennifer Karam: jmkaram3@gmail.com

*With Gratitude to Almighty God
and to our Blessed Mother, Mary,*

*The Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles announces
and the Kaldawi family invites you to the*

*Ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ
of Deacon Wadih Z. Kaldawi*

*Through the invocation of the Holy Spirit
and the Imposition of hands by
His Excellency Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, D.D., M.L.M.*

*On Saturday, January 29, 2022 at eleven o'clock in the morning
At St. John Maron Maronite Catholic Church
500 Flower St. Orange, California
A lunch reception will immediately follow
in the Church banquet hall.*

*Father Wadih will celebrate his first Divine Liturgy at
St. John Maron on Sunday January 30, 2022 at
twelve fifteen o'clock in the afternoon.
A lunch will be served after the Divine Liturgy in the church hall.*

*Please respond by January 10, 2022 to Mona Kaldawi
(503) 313-6405 or email Monzak21@hotmail.com*



The MYA is a group of men and women ages 18-40 (ish) which meets once a month for fellowship, prayer, and social activities. If interested, please contact Claude Karam at claudet@trazzafoods.com

Next Meeting Date TBA

Reflection

Lk 1:46-55 (The Cantic of Mary)

Christmas seems to be the most joyous time of the year, and rightfully so as we celebrate the day our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world in His love to save us. It is interesting to ask, why, then, do we celebrate two dark events the week of Christmas – the martyrdom of St. Stephen, the first martyr (Dec. 27) and the Holy Innocents, slain by King Herod (Dec. 29)? Why would we celebrate two feasts about death during the same period we celebrate the birth of God as a man? The answer to the “why” can be found in looking exactly “what” both feasts are.

St. Stephen’s feast comes two days after Christmas every year. He was one of the men appointed to be a deacon by the Apostles. In Acts 7, St. Stephen recounts how God has always guided His people, as Pope Benedict XVI says, to prove how Jesus Christ is the completion of God’s plan of salvation for all He has done for us. The Jewish Sanhedrin, or council of leaders, was enraged by this, as well as the rest of his preaching of Christ, and they had him stoned to death. But, imitating Christ’s own words on Good Friday during His crucifixion, St. Stephen prayed that God receive his spirit and forgive those who killed him. As such, St. Stephen is known as the first martyr (coming from the Greek word witness) to the faith of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Innocents, then, are considered in their own way to also be first martyrs. As Matthew writes in the second chapter of his record of the Gospel, Herod met the Magi before they made it to the Christ Child and so he heard the King of the Jews had been born. King Herod feared that such a king should be born in his jurisdiction and threaten his own rule, so he commanded that all boys in Bethlehem under the age of two be killed so as to kill Christ. Jesus, Mary and Joseph successfully fled to Egypt to avoid Herod’s persecution, but unfortunately Herod slaughtered many children. The Maronite Office likens Herod to the Pharaoh in Exodus:

Two Kings traveled on two paths: they made war against infants. Pharaoh, the wicked king, and Herod, hater of truth. Pharaoh drowned infants to lessen the children of Israel and Herod killed youths for he willed to kill the Lord of All. Woe to both of them for they fought against truth. Behold, they [the children] were made heirs of the Garden of Eden, and torment is reserved for the kings.

Why, then, do we celebrate the death of saints so near to the birth of Christ? In both their own ways, St. Stephen and the Holy Innocents were martyred (that is, witnessed) for Christ, Who is the Truth – St. Stephen in his words, and the Holy Innocents in the purity of their being. Because of their witness, they are known as the first martyrs. But by witnessing to Christ, they did not die. They were killed in body, but as the prayer above says, “They were made heirs of the Garden of Eden” while those who persecuted them will receive torment. As we reflected last week, by Christ’s birth He has united His divinity to our humanity. Those who witness to Him will receive life eternal in heaven, even if they should be killed – as Christ Himself says, “Whoever loses their life for me will find it” (Matt. 16:25). Christ was killed on Good Friday but He rose on Easter Sunday because He Himself is life – and He has united His life to those are Christian.

Each of us who call ourselves Christian must witness to Christ. Certainly only a few are called to physically die in profession of Christ, but persecution comes to all Christians, in one form or another. We are called to profess Christ in all we do for, as Christ has told us, “My Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day” (John 6:40). After the Birth of Our Lord in the flesh, we celebrate St. Stephen and the Holy Innocents’ entrance into eternal life through the same Lord – may their prayers be a rampart to us.



Gibran N Zogbi

Agent

2925 SE 73rd Avenue
Hillsboro, OR, 97213
Bus 503-649-9514 Fax 503-649-1612
gibran.zogbi.qdmq@statefarm.com



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